

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for enabling a user to extract information from business data, comprising:  
automatically identifying, using a processor that is a functional component of the computer, a data navigation path from a collection of relationships between individual sets of data comprised within the business data; and  
providing the data navigation path to the user so as to enable the user to move from a first data set to a related second data set, wherein at least one of the first and second data sets comprises aggregated data stored in an on-line analytical processing (OLAP) data warehouse.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises receiving from the user a data context related to the first set of data.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the receiving from the user step is the first step.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein automatically identifying a data navigation path further comprises:  
providing the data context to a provider that is associated with a first type of data navigation;  
receiving from the provider a link representing a data navigation path that is of the first type of data navigation; and  
wherein providing the data navigation path to the user comprises providing said link to the user.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data context to a provider comprises providing the data context to a provider that is associated with a drill down type of

navigation.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data context to a provider comprises providing the data context to a provider that is associated with navigation from aggregated data to related transaction data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data context to a provider comprises providing the data context to a provider that is associated with a drill up type of navigation.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data context to a provider comprises providing the data context to a provider that is associated with navigation from transaction data to related aggregated data.

9. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data context to a provider comprises providing the data context to a provider that is associated with a drill across type of navigation.

10. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data context to a provider comprises providing the data context to a provider that is associated with navigation between two data units that share a dimension.

11. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data context to a provider comprises providing the data context to a provider that is associated with a drill to details type of navigation.

12. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data context to a provider

comprises providing the data context to a provider that is associated with navigation through collections of data that are hierarchically organized.

13. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data context to a provider comprises providing the data context to a provider that is associated with a logic association type of navigation.

14. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data context to a provider comprises providing the data context to a provider that is associated with navigation between two data collections that the user has identified as related.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the data navigation path to the user comprises providing a traversable data navigation link to the user.

16. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein providing the data navigation path to the user comprises providing the user with a collection of data navigation links that each represent a data navigation path that is available based on the received data context, wherein one of the data navigation links corresponds to the provided data navigation path.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a user to extract information from business data, the system comprising:

- a plurality of data navigation providers each associated with a specific type of navigation;
- a navigation service layer configured to transmit a navigation service request to one or more of the data navigation providers; and
- a metadata service for providing the plurality of data navigation providers with access to a metadata store, each data navigation provider being configured to respond to a received data navigation request by accessing ~~interacting with~~ the metadata service

with a processor and processing metadata from the metadata store to identify at least one data navigation path between a first data set and a related second data set, wherein at least one of the first and second data sets comprises aggregated data stored in an on-line analytical processing (OLAP) data warehouse; and an output interface device displaying to the user the identified data navigation paths.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said at least one data navigation path corresponds to the received data navigation request.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said at least one data navigation path corresponds to a data context provided with the received data navigation request.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein each data navigation provider is further configured to respond to provide the navigation service layer with one or more navigation links that correspond to said at least one data navigation path.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the navigation service layer is further configured to provide the user with an aggregated collection of navigation links that represent navigation links collected from multiple data navigation providers.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the navigation service layer is further configured to receive a selection command from the user, the selection command corresponding to a selected navigation link.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the navigation service layer is further configured to transmit the selection command to a corresponding one of the data navigation providers.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the system further comprises a data service provider that is associated with a data collection, the corresponding one of the data navigation service providers being configured to interact with the data service provider so as to retrieve data from the data collection, wherein the data retrieved from the data collection corresponds to the selection command.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the data retrieved from the data collection represents a traversal of the selected navigation link and is returned to the user through the navigation service layer.

26. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the system further comprises a data service provider that is associated with a data warehouse, the corresponding one of the data navigation service providers being configured to interact with the data service provider so as to retrieve data from the data warehouse, wherein the data retrieved from the data warehouse corresponds to the selection command.

27. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the system further comprises a data service provider that is associated with a database, the corresponding one of the data navigation service providers being configured to interact with the data service provider so as to retrieve data from the database, wherein the data retrieved from the database corresponds to the selection command.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of data navigation providers is associated with navigation from aggregated data to related transaction data.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of data navigation providers is associated with navigation from transaction data to related aggregated data.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of data navigation providers is associated with a drill across type of navigation.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of data navigation providers is associated with navigation between two data units that share a dimension.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of data navigation providers is associated with a drill to details type of navigation.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of data navigation providers is associated with hierarchical navigation through collections of data that are hierarchically organized.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of data navigation providers is associated with navigation between two data collections that the user has identified as related.

35. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the navigation service layer is further configured to support at least one successfully registered additional data navigation provider, wherein the successfully registered additional data navigation provider becomes one of the plurality of data navigation providers.

36. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a user to extract information from business data, the system comprising:

- a plurality of data navigation providers each associated with a specific type of navigation;
- a metadata service for providing the plurality of data navigation providers with access to a metadata store so that the data navigation providers are able to generate data

navigation links based on information in the metadata store using a processor;  
a navigation service layer configured to transmit a navigation service request to one or more  
of the data navigation providers; to receive at least one data navigation links -from  
the plurality of data navigation providers, each data navigation link corresponding to  
a path between a first data set and a related second data set, wherein at least one of  
the first and second data sets comprises aggregated data stored in an on-line  
analytical processing (OLAP) data warehouse; to present data navigation links to  
the user for selection; to receive a user selection of a data navigation link; and to  
transmit the user selection to one or more of the plurality of data navigation  
providers; ~~and~~  
a data service provider that is associated with a data collection and configured to interact  
with a data navigation provider so as to retrieve data from the data collection based  
on the user selection, at least some of the data retrieved from the data collection  
being provided to the user as a response to the user selection of a data navigation  
link; and  
an output interface device displaying to the user the data navigation links and the provided  
data.